1-A-Day SCRIPTURE

Scripture and Notes for Each Day of the Year

By
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OCTOBER

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A major aim of sharing these
One-A-Day
Scripture Guidelines
is to foster personal studies, questions, and deeper levels of thought. As I pursue wisdom and instruction from the Most High, one hope is to contribute insight, or at least to aide in discussion, while keeping in mind and encouraging the understanding that no individual, group, or organization knows everything.

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October 1

Baruch 3:14

Wisdom, Strength, Understanding, Longevity, Life, Inner Joy, and Peace. Find It!

Learn where is wisdom, where is strength, where is understanding; that thou mayest know also where is length of days, and life, where is the light of the eyes, and peace.

Wisdom, Strength, Understanding, Longevity, Life, Inner Joy, and Peace. Find It!

This passage instructs to, “Learn where” wisdom, strength and understanding may be found.

Where are
those things
and how can
they be found?
Finding wisdom,
strength, and
understanding
may lead to
longevity—
real life; not
just existence.

Finding these attributes could bring about general health, well-being, and peace such as mental and physical calm.

The benefit of seeking consistent wisdom and understanding is

improved living
or, as some say, a
better “quality of
life”—primarily of
the spiritual kind.

These things
must be sought
through Scripture
and from Spirit
in order to
be found.

Would the quest be worth the effort?

Should one actually seek wisdom, strength, understanding, longevity, real life, inner joy and peace?

October 2

Psalm
100:1-5

An Uplifting Recitation & More

[1] Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
[2] Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
[3] Know ye that

the LORD he is
God: it is he that
hath made us,
and not we
ourselves;
we are his
people, and
the sheep of
his pasture.
4 Enter into his
gates with

thanksgiving,
and into his
courts with
praise:
be thankful
unto him, and
bless his name.
5 For the LORD
is good; his
mercy is
everlasting;

and his truth endureth to all generations.

An Uplifting Recitation & More

This passage is commonly recited in church congregations.

It is inspirational and comforting. It is also a very clear pronouncement of

who followers of Creator most High are, but without the exaggerated self-esteem pomp that is so prevalent in pseudo-Christian and pop culture:

We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

We're God's people.
We belong to Him.

Though
surrounded
by potential
dangers, we
are within
God's personal
guidance and
unique

protection.
More importantly,
these scriptural
words speak of
God's worthiness
of being praised.

The LORD is good;
his mercy is
everlasting;
and his truth
endures to all

generations. Indeed, the words are uplifting, and, when analyzed, they offer depth and insight.

October 3

2 Corinthians 12:5 -10

Good Weakness

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.
6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest

any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.
7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations,

there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it

might depart
from me.
9 And he said unto
me, My grace is
sufficient for thee:
for my strength is
made perfect in
weakness. Most
gladly therefore
will I rather glory
in my infirmities,

that the power of
Christ may rest
upon me.
10 Therefore I
take pleasure
in infirmities,
in reproaches,
in necessities,
in persecutions,
in distresses
for Christ's sake:

for when I am
weak, then am
I strong.

Good Weakness

Paul writes:
I'm not carrying on about myself. It's just that I'm glad about my "infirmities". I'm trying to hold back some of what I'm feeling so you

won't think
I'm trying to be
super-spiritual
or something
that I'm not.

So I wouldn't get
too high-minded
due to having
received such
great revelation

and such
deeply spiritual
knowledge, I was
also given
“a thorn in the
flesh”. That is a
messenger of
Satan used by
God for the
purpose keeping
me humble.

I asked the Lord three times to cause this particular issue (unspecified) to stop, but he told me this:
My grace is what you need.
My strength is made known

when you're
weak.

So, I'll
appreciate
frailties and
imperfections.
I'm actually
excited about
my shortcomings
and personal

and physical
weaknesses.
I really prefer
such conditions
so that the power
of Christ may
remain on me.

With this
understanding,
“I take pleasure

in infirmities,
in reproaches,
in necessities,
in persecutions,
in distresses
for Christ's sake"
because it's when
I'm weak that
I'm actually
stronger than
ever.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

"Pleasure in infirmities..."!
Seriously?

Had Paul slipped

into some type of mental obscurity?

Had he, at the other extreme, soared to godly spiritual enlightenment?

Is there really a "***good*** weakness"?

October 4

Ecclesiasticus 43:30-32 (1611 KJV)

You Can Never Go Far Enough

30 When you glorify the Lord exalt him as much as you can: for even yet will he far exceed, and when you exalt him, put forth all your strength, and be not

weary: for you
can never go
far enough.
31 Who hath
seen him, that
he might tell
us? and who
can magnify
him as he is?
32 There are
yet hid greater

things than these be, for we have seen but a few of his works:

You Can Never Go Far Enough

When you praise the Lord, even when you do it with all your energy, strength, excitement, and passion, and you are able to do it untiringly, it still is

not enough to match who He is—His greatness.

Praise and glorify God with all vigor and zeal possible, but it can never equate to God's worthiness.

No one has seen Him so who can tell us exactly how magnificent He is?

No human is capable of praising and exalting the LORD to the degree that is deserved. We have

only seen a few of
his works and
there are greater
things than these!

You can never
go far enough in
praising the Great
God and Creator
of all things.

October 5

1 Thessalonians 5:23

The God of Peace

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of Peace

This could be a prayer or a personal desire which has meditation-worthy elements:

- "God of peace"
- "sanctify"
- "whole spirit"

- “soul”
- “preserved”

“blameless”

- “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”

What might happen were we to really think about

these phrases?
What if we were
to roll them over
in our minds?

Is it possible to
allow the God of
Peace to lead our
spirits into the
understanding
of ***real*** peace?

October 6

1 John 5:14-16

We Know God Hears

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know

that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

We Know God Hears

Yes, God hears our desires. Yes, God grants our desires. Also, yes, such desires must be “according to his will”.

Nonetheless, any biblical passage that

is used to say every single thing any person, even a sincere Believer, prays for is granted, is a gross twisting of Scripture.

Many other Bible verses prove that. Day-to-day living proves that as well.

We know God hears. We know God fulfills according to God's will. But here's something a bit more involved. If God hears and knows and no request is going to

be approved unless
it's "according to
his will" anyway,
why bother praying
for anything?
He knows what
you need.

He's either going
to do it or he

won't, right?
That's a legitimate question which some may openly ask. Still, others may be ashamed to ask. They are embarrassed, for some reason. Some may feel certain queries, such as

this, would be to question God's validity. Even if they *think* such questions, they don't dare verbally express them.

At any rate, it's a reasonable question. So, if God

already knows
issues and is
only going to do
whatever he's going
to do anyway,
what's the point
in prayers?

Do we know
what God's will
is in every

circumstance?
Are petitions to God similar to filing a medical insurance claim where you might not know all that is covered so you (or a medical person) will file in hopes the claim will be paid? In a

situation such as that, the claim will only be approved if it's already on a list of things that will be covered—and that list may change from year to year. Of course the answer will be an automatic "no" if

no claim is ever filed. Is prayer like that?

Here's something to think about:

Scriptures give general guidelines as to God's will, but no detailed lists of

what is God's will
for everyday life
are given.

Prayer is not just
to ask for things;
it is a means of
communicating
with God—talking
as well as listening.
So, when making

prayer requests, you don't really need to know what's on God's "yes" or "no" list. Just asking is a way of sharing your personal needs with God. It is connection and submission to God.

Asking God is living
a life of faith.

Prayer is yielding
to His will,
whatever that
will may be in
a specific case.
It's showing trust
that God hears.

October 7

Hosea 5:1

A Trap

Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a

snare on Mizpah,
and a net spread
upon Tabor.

A Trap

"Priests", "house of Israel", and "house of the king" denotes leaders. This message is to the leaders of that time and culture and can benefit this time and culture as well.

It's saying the leadership, representatives, and authority figures, have been a bad influence on others.

By their rules and actions, they have become a "net" and a "snare"—a trap

that captures and dooms other people.

Governments, for example, can be a trap to its citizens. They have power to enact laws that stop people from doing what is right

and cause them
to do what breaks
God's laws.

One day a
thing is illegal then
the next day it's
legal and vice
versa. What's eaten
depends on what's
available. Leaders

have control over what's available.

Preachers, teachers, parents, spouses, bosses, big sisters or brothers, so-called celebrities—all, as having *some* degree of

leadership, can be poor and harmful guides to others.

Anyone who is in power of others, in any capacity, and that includes powers of influence and persuasion,

can be a trap.
Don’t
set a trap.

Don’t
BE a trap.

October 8

James 4:3

Ask, But No Receipt

Ye ask, and
receive not,
because ye
ask amiss, that
ye may consume
it upon
your lusts.

Ask, But No Receipt

Why are some prayer requests unanswered?

Scripture says some prayers are wasted because they are requests for things to satisfy lusts.

When petitions are made “that ye may consume it upon your lusts”—for self-satisfaction, you may continue to ask, but there will be no fulfillment of such requests.

October 9

Ecclesiasticus 34:5-7

Deceptive Dreams & Divination

5 Divinations,
and
soothsayings,
and dreams are
vain: and the
heart fancieth as
a woman’s heart
in travail.
6 If they be not
sent from the
most high in thy

visitation, set not thy heart upon them.
7 For dreams have deceived many, and they have failed that put their trust in them.

Deceptive Dreams & Divination

Some people practice sorcery to predict futures. Even dreams may seem to be a guide in certain situations.

And there are

some who really crave such predictions (like horoscopes) even as a woman is very anxious when she is in labor.

Nonetheless, we are warned about failure

which can
come from
such deception.

We are told not
to trust in any
forecasting if it
is not sent from
the most High.

Beware of

deceptive dreams
and divination.

October 10

Luke 15:11-32

The Prodigal Son

11 And he said,
A certain man
had two sons:
12 And the younger
of them said
to his father,
Father, give me
the portion of
goods that
falleth to me.
And he divided

unto them
his living.
13 And not many
days after the
younger son
gathered all
together, and
took his
journey into
a far country,
and there

wasted his substance with riotous living.
14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.
15 And he went

and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.
16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that

the swine did
eat: and no man
gave unto him.
17 And when he
came to himself,
he said, How
many hired
servants of my
father's have
bread enough
and to spare,

and I perish
with hunger!
18 I will arise
and go to my
father, and will
say unto him,
Father, I have
sinned against
heaven, and
before thee,
19 And am no

more worthy to
be called thy son:
make me as one
of thy hired
servants.
20 And he arose,
and came to his
father. But when
he was yet a
great way off,
his father saw

him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and

am no more worthy to be called thy son.
22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and

shoes on
his feet:
23 And bring hither
the fatted calf,
and kill it; and
let us eat, and
be merry:
24 For this my son
was dead, and is
alive again; he
was lost, and is

found. And they began to be merry.
25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.
26 And he called one of the

servants, and asked what these things meant.
27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received

him safe and sound.
28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him.
29 And he answering said

to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I

might make merry
with my friends:
30 But as soon as
this thy son was
come, which hath
devoured thy
living with harlots,
thou hast killed
for him the
fatted calf.
31 And he said

unto him, Son,
thou art ever
with me, and
all that I have
is thine.
32 It was meet
that we should
make merry, and
be glad: for this
thy brother was
dead, and is

alive again;
and was lost,
and is found.

The Prodigal Son

Whether or not it actually happened, this speaks of an amazing grace that is available for those who would only: 1) repent and return to God and 2) let go of petty envy and just enjoy God's love.

As with the two sons,
if you left (backslid)
and came back as did
what some call
“the prodigal son”,
God loves you.

If you never left and
remained faithful,
God loves you too.

October 11

Psalm 90:10

70-80 Years Average?

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

70-80 Years Average?

A “score”
is 20 years.
So, threescore
years is 60
years.

Ten years added
to that is 70 years.
Hence, fourscore
years is 80 years.

This seems to be saying people live roughly 80 years and of those years, there is “labour and sorrow” then we die and “fly away”.

It’s possible that the well-known

religious hymn, ♬"I'll Fly Away", came from this verse?

In that song, there is more of a joyful and hopeful feel. The tone of this passage, however, seems to indicate

that death is just
a matter of fact
or, perhaps, even
somewhat a
disappointment.
Even life, here, is
presented as being
brief and grievous.

We're told 70 years
is about what can

be expected but, "...if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

The outlook seems

rather gloomy in saying that if you happen to live past an average life expectancy of 70 years to 80 years of age, the “strength” or the better part of those years are still tediously filled

with hard work
and unhappiness
and even then,
all there is left
is death.

In essence, here
it's saying living
even 10 years
longer is not so
great because

those extra years are “soon cut off”. You still just die and “fly away”.

It may be that as we get older, or at any age, when we hear about people dying, we may think about our

own lives and inevitable deaths.

Maybe we do well to be concerned about the *then and there* more than the *here and now* because whether we reach 70, 80, more years, or

fewer, most of
us are aware
that no one can
live in these
bodies forever.

If there is, in fact,
something to that
flying away,
perhaps we can
and should

prepare for
whatever there
may be
beyond these
approximately
70 or 80 sad and
laborious years.

October 12

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

The Body Temple

19 What? know
ye not that your
body is the
temple of the
Holy Ghost
which is in you,
which ye have of
God, and ye are
not your own?
20 For ye are
bought with a

price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

The Body Temple

Don’t you know the purpose of your body? As a Believer, you are to think of yourself, specifically your body, as a sacred place which houses the Holy

Ghost. You are not to think of yourself as owning yourself because you have been bought. Messiah has paid a price for you. So then, you are to revere God in your body and in your spirit.

All of you—every part of yourself belongs to God.

Bought with a price? Not your own? Really?! Some may be uncomfortable with that concept or may even take

offence to such expression. However, it's actually an honor and a security feature, if you will, to not be one's own.

As such, true Believers do not

have the responsibility of paying for inherent human sin. Since the penalty of such has been paid, by the blood of Christ, we are bought. Contrary to that being

something humiliating, it's a very, very, *very* good thing.

It's a great thing, in fact, because were we required to compensate for that sin penalty, there would

literally be hell to pay. Eternity in hell is the price that must be paid, according to Scripture, for those who are NOT bought—who are their own.

Therefore, we who

ARE “bought with a price” and are not our own, ought to glorify God in our bodies and spirits. Our beings are to be as if they were most sacred places, temples, because they rightfully

belong to God.

There's a really upbeat gospel song by 1st Louisiana Jurisdictional Mass Choir entitled, "I Belong to God"

with the lyrics:

I belong to God…
From the top of
my head
To the souls of
my feet
I belong to God…

October 13

Ecclesiasticus 50:27-29

Exercised in Understanding and Knowledge

27 Jesus the son of Sirach of Jerusalem hath written in this book, the instruction of understanding and knowledge, who out of his heart poured forth wisdom.

28 Blessed is he
that shall be
exercised in
these things,
and he that
layeth them up
in his heart,
shall become
wise.
29 For if he do
them, he shall

be strong to all things, for the light of the Lord leadeth him, who giveth wisdom to the godly: blessed be the Lord for ever. Amen. Amen.

Exercised in Understanding and Knowledge

Imagine that. There are instructions to obtain understanding and knowledge, with a proposed attached blessing of heart-felt wisdom. There is a specific blessing

of wisdom given
to those who are
exercised in
(practiced in)
these things and
who store them
in their hearts.

Additionally, those
who “do them” are
granted strength
in the face of all

things. The light
of the LORD will
lead them. It is
the LORD
who gives wisdom
and is blessed
forever.

This passage says
that in this book
(Ecclesiasticus,

which is sometimes called Sirach), the instruction of understanding and knowledge and poured out wisdom from a person's heart (Jesus, the son of Sirach) is available. But how can you ever get it,

from that source, if that source is removed? If you don't have access to it because someone has told you those books are bad or if you've never heard of them, how can you attempt to investigate?

October 14

Ecclesiasticus 40:1

Difficult By Design?

Great travail
is created
for every man,
and an heavy
yoke is upon
the sons of
Adam, from
the day that
they go out
of their
mother's

womb, till
the day
that they
return to
the mother
of all things.

Difficult By Design?

It could be a bit unsettling to think about life this way. For some, to think about death at all is uncomfortable.

With that in mind, should we just ignore these words?

Should we dismiss the concept of *trouble for everyone* as "negative"?

In fact, it would be pointless to disregard this verse. The reality remains that

travail, as it is used here and meaning labor, work, difficulty, and sorrow, has been designated for humankind *as the result of sin*. Some seem to have travail much less or much more

than others, but apparently some degree of difficulty or hardship is the case for everyone and physical death is certainly a guarantee for all people.

Why would these

words be a part of Scripture (whether they are considered canonical or non-canonical)?

It's not "positive"! It doesn't make anyone feel better. It possibly won't

change anyone's life. So what's the point in stating that hardship and heaviness is set for every human from their first day until their last day on earth?

From this, we may

be able to see that whatever challenge we experience, others have already, do presently, and will in the future, go through similar situations.

We can also

use this as confirmation of other scriptures which remind us of the temporal state of this existence that we call life.

Maybe these are not profound

words, but it is necessary to stay aware that not everything is cushy, sweet, and rosy for anyone. Even the high and mighty, the cruel and powerful, and the popular

and so-called "privileged" (those who have unfair advantages and profit from systematic inequity) will all suffer and die just as will the poor and powerless who

suffer and die.

Facts are just
facts and truth
is truth regardless
to how “positive”
or “negative”
something
sounds.

Apart from to the

theological term (such as *the fallen condition* or *original sin*) or the way one may choose to express it, there is evidence in life of common, inherent difficulties.

Consider pain in gums. The rich and poor, those from all over the world, and those from any time in history, all experience teething discomfort, for example.

One might say
that life is
difficult by
design.
Since the fall
of humankind,
that has not
changed.

October 15

Isaiah
49:15

Forget You!

NEVER!

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Forget You! NEVER!

The relationship between a nursing woman and her infant is very special; it's a uniquely tight bond.

Under normal circumstances,

a woman won't abandon her nursing child. Under abnormal circumstances, however, she may.

Nonetheless, God will not leave his people. This indicates an even

tighter bond than possibly the tightest earthly bond.

The take-away is that God loves His people and will never abandon His people.

October 16

1 Corinthians 15:23

The Order of Things

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

The Order of Things

Everything has a proper order. This is true in the spiritual realm as well as in the natural or earthly realm.

Believers will be “made alive”

(verse 22) in a pre-determined order:
Christ first, then those who belong to Christ will also be made alive. This resurrection will occur “at his coming” which is when Yeshua

comes to earth
to collect his
faithful.

That's the order
of those spiritual
things.

October 17

Acts 26:15-18

Persecution with Purpose

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.
16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of

these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
18 To open their eyes, and to turn them

from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Persecution with Purpose

Jesus was no longer on earth in human form, yet Paul had been persecuting Jesus. How so? How can one do *anything* to someone who

isn't even alive? Paul was doing that by severely persecuting Jesus' followers.

Jesus appeared to Paul telling him that he would be persecuted with a purpose. That

purpose was for him to be a minister and witness of present and future things.

Paul's mission would be to open the eyes of Gentiles and to turn them from ignorance to

truth; from the power of Satan to the power of God. The purpose of doing that was so they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among those who are **sanctified by faith**

in Jesus.
Jesus was sending
Paul to some of
the very people
who would
persecute him.
Jesus would have
to deliver Paul
from the people
Paul was trying
to help.

It was persecution with a distinct purpose.

Is it possible that certain Believers, or maybe all Believers, are also persecuted with a purpose?

Does God place his people in similar situations where we are trying to help the very people who are trying to hurt and even destroy us because of our faith in Jesus?

October 18

John 1:12

Power to Become God's Sons

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Power to Become God's Sons

Will *everyone*, regardless to path and regardless to relationship, regardless to belief and regardless to acceptance, become God's

sons?

As many as

RECEIVE

"To Them

Gave He Power

To Become

The Sons

of God

To Them that

BELIEVE

on His Name

Those who received Messiah and who believed **on his name**, obtained power (the right, the authority, the ability) to become the sons of God.

The power, or the

access, to become
the very Creator's
own family is
really worth
deep thought.

October 19

John 3:36

You Can Deal With *This* or You Can Deal With *That*

on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

You Can Deal with *THIS* or You Can Deal with *THAT*

Here, as within many places in Scripture, we may see a clear contrast.

These absolutes present us with a choice for our

eternal futures. We may choose to be among those who have everlasting life because we believe on the Son. That's one option. On the other hand, we may be of those

who will not see life because the wrath of God lives on them. That is also a choice.

According to Scripture, one's eternity is directly connected to what one believes

and everyone will deal with either *this* choice and its consequence or *that* choice and its consequence.

October 20

Ecclesiasticus 37:7-16

Where To Get Advice

[7] Every counselor extoleth counsel; but there is some that counseleth for himself.
[8] Beware of a counselor, and know before what need he hath (for he will counsel for himself) lest he cast the lot upon

thee:
9 And say unto
thee, Thy way
is good: and
afterward he stand
on the other side,
to see what shall
befall thee.
10 Consult not
with one that
suspecteth thee:
and hide thy

counsel from such as envy thee.
11 Neither consult with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous; neither with a coward in matters of war, nor with a merchant concerning exchange; nor

with a buyer of selling; nor with an envious man of thankfulness; nor with an unmerciful man touching kindness; nor with the slouthful for any work; nor with an hireling for a year, of finishing work; nor with an

idle servant of
much business:
Hearken not unto
these in any
matter of counsel.
12 But be
continually with a
godly man, whom
thou knowest
to keep the
commandments
of the Lord, whose

mind is according to thy mind, and will sorrow with thee, if thou shalt miscarry.
13 And let the counsel of thine own heart stand: for there is no man more faithful unto thee than it.
14 For a man's

mind is sometime wont to tell him more than seven watchmen, that sit above in an high tower.
15 And above all this pray to the most high, that he will direct thy way in truth.
16 Let reason go

before every enterprise, and counsel before every action.

Where to Get Advice

["wont" – one's customary behavior; accustomed to doing something.

Ex: Joe, as was his wont, slept during the evening lecture.]

Advice. Counsel. Instruction. Leading. Guidance.

From whom should a Believer take his or her direction?

Is it the most expensive professional or the one with the highest academic degree? Is it the

graduate of the
“best” schools,
or perhaps it is
whomever is
available?
Maybe the most
qualified to hear
one’s woes and
offer guidance is
merely the one who
has the best price

or is the most popular—the highest recommended? How about a religious leader such as a pastor or church counselor? Maybe the best choice is whoever makes you feel the

best about yourself such as parents, friends, children, newspaper advice columns? Maybe other customers in public places such as coffee shops or barber shops can give the best advice. What about

bartenders in bars? There are a variety of options, but what does this passage suggest as being the best way to receive guidance?

Here, the reader is warned that any

counselor can give advice but some do so with ulterior motives which benefit themselves.

For years, media has strongly pushed people to go to licensed therapists,

psychiatrists,
psychologists,
and other such
so-called
“mental health
professionals” for
help and advice.
It has been, and
currently is,
glamorized in many
sitcoms, TV series,

and films. Viewers are constantly told that going to them is the popular, acceptable, and the right thing to do.

Yet, very little guidance is

provided on how to select counselors beyond gender or skin color.
We read in this part of Ecclesiasticus to BEWARE of a counselor and to know, in advance, what he (or she) really wants. They

can be selfish and they can be sneaky. They can set you up for failure, then sit back to see how badly their advice affected your life.

Consider:

So-called licensed counselors are often more psychologically disturbed than the people they are paid to "help". In the capture above, try to guess

which one is the professional mental health counselor.

Though the picture is from a media sit-com, it happens much too often in real life that trying to get help

or advice from "professionals" (including medical ones) proves fruitless and even harmful. In the image above, the woman in the middle, on the floor and sobbing, is the counselor. She was

supposed to be helping the couple. In the end, they had to console counsel her.

1611 KJV

vs.

1540 Great Bible:

The 1611 KJV omits the following Great Bibles' verse:

Seek no counsel at thy kinsmen, and hide thy counsel from such as bear thee no good will.

6 Forget not thy friend in thy minde, and be not vnmindfull of him in thy riches.

Between verses 6 and 7 of this version (1611 KJV), an entire verse is missing.

7 Euery counseller extolleth counsell; but there is some that counselleth for himselfe. [Compare to the 1540 Great Bible BELOW:]

commeth he taketh holde of the chylde.[6] Forgetnot thy frende in thy mynde, and thinke vpō him in thy ryches. Seke no councell at thy kinsmen, and hyde thy councell frō soch as beare the no good wyll.[7] *Euery coūceler bryngeth forth his councell. Neuertheles, there is some þ counceleth, but for his awne profet: Beware of the counceler, and be ad=

The difference is significant. That missing verse begins instruction and warnings regarding advice. Further, the verse is only one of two, in the passage, to address to whom one should *not* give advice.

The biblical passage gives specifics on when one should avoid receiving counsel.

From reading this, we can learn a lot about where to get advice.

Spoken in slang, here's good advice for *anyone*:

Be very careful who you get advice from. Cuz' if a brother is telling you what *he* would do and he ain't figured out his own stuff, RUN!

Be very careful who you get advice from cuz' if a brother is telling you what he would do and he ain't figured out his own stuff, RUN!

October 21

John 6:44-47

Father-Drawn, Father-Taught. With Father Forever

come to me,
except the Father
which hath sent
me draw him:
and I will raise
him up at the
last day.
45 It is written
in the prophets,
And they shall be
all taught of

God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.
46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath

seen the Father.
47 Verily, verily,
I say unto you,
He that believeth
on me hath
everlasting life.

Father-Drawn. Father Taught. With Father Forever

The heavenly Father, the same One who sent Christ to earth, draws (pulls) people to Christ.

When people hear and have

understood, they will come to Christ.

It's all spiritual.

The Father draws souls to the Son.

The Father teaches souls about the Son.

Those who believe

that Jesus is the
Christ—
the promised
Messiah,
have gained
everlasting life.

Father-Drawn.
Father-Taught.
With Father
Forever.

October 22

Ecclesiasticus 50:22

Only Wonderful Things?

Now therefore bless ye the God of all, which only doth wonderous things every where, which exalteth our days from the womb, and dealeth with us according to his mercy.

Only Wonderful Things?

[See Psalm 72:18, Ecclesiasticus 31:9 ("wonderous", "wondrous"]

During times of joy, happiness, and prosperity, these words may provide comfort and even a

sense of security or entitlement.

When things aren't going well at all, however, such writings may not only fail to offer soothing, but could actually be scorned and rejected.

That's the way it is with almost any words, especially those that we may believe to be uplifting and reassuring.

Situations and emotions have the ability to

cloud how we
receive Scripture.
So, during times
that our lives
seem hard, heavy,
painful, empty,
unstable, or
in any way
unpleasant, when
we read that
God only does

wonderful things, it's possible to doubt or disregard such writings. We may discount them as mere poetry or even as outright dishonesty.

?

Questions may

be asked:
How is it that
God ONLY does
WONDEROUS
things yet my life
is not wonderful
all the time?

What does
Scripture mean
by the word

"wonderous"?
One cannot
read the whole
of Scripture
(for oneself;
not relying on
interpretations of
religious leaders)
and come to the
conclusion that life
will be perfectly

problem-free
at all times.

Scripture uses
various writing
styles in covering
a wide span of
time, including
the beginning of
creation to the
end of earth as

we know it.
It reveals that not
everything is
sweet, clean, fair,
fun, and easy—not
even for the truly
godly and
righteous.

In fact, a good
part of the Old

Testament and New Testament consists of brutality and violence, enslavement, the mistreatment of the innocent and godly, and abject inequity. So, then, why

does Scripture
say that God
only does
wonderful things?

"Well, it's from an
apocryphal book
anyway, so maybe
it's not Scripture
and, therefore,
it's an error", some

may say.

Oh? Is the New Testament book of Romans part of legitimate Scripture?

Doesn't Romans 8:28 say, "

"And we know that all things work together for

good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”?

Doesn’t the Old Testament book of Psalms, chapter 72, verse 18 say, “Blessed be the

LORD God, the
God of Israel,
who **only** doeth
wondrous
things"?

So, it's not an
issue of
where this
verse is found.
Perhaps the answer

is discovered
in the proper
interpretation and
understanding of
“good” and,
more specifically,
“wonderous”.

The quick answer
is that the way we,
humans, think of

“good” and
“wonderous” is
not how Scripture
speaks of those
words. Further, we
are often reminded
in Scripture that
God’s thoughts and
ways are very
different from those
of humans. Even so,

let's consider the birth of Jesus to get a less human and more God-like perspective.

Mary was with child and homeless before Jesus was born. Despite the highly sanitized

scenes we are bombarded with around Christmas, giving birth in the conditions as described in Scripture had to be seriously uncomfortable, to say the least. That's just the birth itself.

There were other situations surrounding Jesus' birth, including a king wanting to kill him before he was born. Yet, none of that would be considered "wonderous", by human standards.

But how wonderous it was that Jesus was born in such way!

No one can say he was only called Messiah because he was born into a wealthy family with the best living

conditions. No one can claim he was born in the best city since Nazareth was considered to be a bad place (John 1:46). From start to finish of Jesus' conception and birth, things appeared to be

mighty bleak, yet they were mighty blessed—wonderous.

That's just one example of how, regardless to the way life looks, God only does wonderous things.

October 23

Numbers 23:19

Said It. Meant It.

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Said It.
Meant It.

Scripture says that unlike humans, God does not lie or go back on His words.

If He said it, He will do it. He'll make good on

His promises.
We, though,
have to be sure it is
God who made the
promises rather
than some person
saying God made
specific promises
or guarantees to us
as individuals.

When God really does say it, God means whatever God says.

October 24

Ecclesiasticus 39:5-8, 12

A Most High-centered Mind

5 He will give
his heart to
resort* early to
the Lord that
made him, and
will pray before
the most high,
and will open
his mouth in
prayer, and
make

supplication
for his sins.
6 When the great
Lord will, he
shall be filled
with the spirit of
understanding:
he shall pour out
wise sentences,
and give thanks
unto the Lord in

his prayer.
7 He shall direct
his counsel and
knowledge, and
in his secrets
shall he meditate.
8 He shall shew
forth that which
he hath learned,
and shall glory in
the law of the

covenant of
the Lord.
8 He shall shew
forth that which
he hath learned,
and shall glory
in the law of the
covenant of
the Lord.
12 Yet I have
more to say

which I have
thought upon,
for I am filled
as the moon
at the full.**

A Most High-centered Mind

**<u>resort</u> – course of action, strategy, choice*

*** John 21:25, Ecclesiasticus 39:12; 16:5; 43:32*

Verses 1-4 of this chapter talk about people who have a very strong desire

to go deeper into things of God.
[See January 26]

They speak of one's passion for the law of the most High. This passage continues that thought.

People who are

seriously into God are unique. This does not speak of those who are religious assembly attendees, or those who like to say, “I’m spiritual” while being quite casual about godly spirituality. These

most High-centered souls start out by giving their hearts to God in prayer. They pray for forgiveness of their own sins.

Their prayers include pouring

out wise sentences and thanksgiving. That happens when “the great Lord” fills them with the spirit of understanding. God will give guidance and the truly faithful will meditate on

His secrets.
They will exemplify what they have learned and will be a glory to God by their living of the law of His covenants. They're excited about it.

There was so much

more to say about the most High-centered mind, but extreme enthusiasm and exhilaration prevented the writer of this passage from saying more at that time**.

October 25

John
10:2-4, 27

Hear, Follow, Know

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep

by name, and leadeth them out.

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Hear, Follow, Know

Trusting in
Jesus as savior
of one's
eternity
is a matter
of knowing,
hearing, and
following
his voice.

Q: But how? How does one know, hear, and follow the voice of Jesus?

A: Rightly divided Scripture is paramount and

the Holy Spirit will teach us what actually is Scripture and how to correctly interpret it.

To hear, follow, and know God's voice, there

simply must be relationship and submission.

Just think about it. Does anyone really hear *your* voice where there is no relationship?

October 26

Ecclesiasticus 38:9

In Sickness

My son, in thy sickness be not negligent: but pray unto the Lord, and he will make thee whole.

In Sickness

When you're sick, don't fail to pray to the Lord for healing.

This passage says the Lord "will" make you whole. However, as with other scriptures

which SEEM to promise various types of blessings, this passage must also be rightly divided.

First, since “wholeness” is in relation to “sickness” in this

passage, one may assume wholeness means physical healing. It may, but it may be spiritual rather than physical.

Secondly, there is no guarantee that God will heal *every*

Believer *every* time any more than he will give *everything* requested (as some misinterpret other scriptures).

There are times and seasons for everything. If every Believer were to be

healed every time, no Believer would ever die from illness.

So, the point in this verse is to instruct to not be neglectful in asking God for healing when there is sickness.

It’s not a demand of God; it’s a petition.

The writer of this verse was telling his own son to trust God for healing.

We can do the same as long as we are

aware that God is not required to heal our physical bodies.

We are told that God is capable of giving us physical healing, as well as granting spiritual wholeness.

October 27

John 10:5,14

A Stranger vs. The Good Shepherd

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

A Stranger vs. The Good Shepherd

Not only will Believers not follow “a stranger”, but they will flee from him or her. They personally know the caring guide and protector, the

Good Shepherd,
as he knows them.

A stranger is not
necessarily an
unknown person;
it's most often a
strange doctrine
spoken through
a known person.
It's strange, not

because you've
never heard it and
not because pastor
such-in-such
doesn't teach it.
It's strange
because it is not
Scripture and it
is not Holy Spirit.

For example,

when your trusted, beloved pastor starts telling you to put a chair in front of you and pray to it, not only should you refuse to follow that, but you should also flee! It's the voice of a stranger. It's

stranger danger. Only intimacy with Holy Scripture and deep relationship with Holy Spirit, knowing, will help discern a stranger versus the Good Shepherd.

October 28

Ecclesiasticus 31:25–31

Wine: Pros & Cons

25 Shew not thy
valiantness in
wine,
for wine hath
destroyed many.
26 The furnace
proveth the
edge by dipping:
so doth wine
the hearts of
the proud

by drunkenness.
27 Wine is as
good as life
to a man
if it be drunk
moderately:
what life is
then to a man
that is
without wine?
for it was

made to make
men glad.
28 Wine
measurably
drunk, and in
season, bringeth
gladness of the
heart and
cheerfulness
of the mind.
29 But wine

drunken with excess, maketh bitterness of the mind, with brawling and quarreling.
30 Drunkenness increaseth the rage of a fool till he offend, it diminisheth

strength, and maketh wounds.
31 Rebuke not thy neighbor at the wine, and despise him not in his mirth: give him no despiteful words, and press not upon

him with urging
him (to drink.)

Wine: Pros & Cons

Don’t be conceited in the fact that you can drink or about how much you can drink. Alcohol consumption should not be your best feature; your strong point. Alcohol shouldn’t

be something
you're proud of
because alcohol
(wine) has
destroyed many
lives.

Just as a boiling
pot's contents spill
over the edge so
does intoxication

show off pride.
Wine is fine, even great, as long as it is handled with moderation.
It could actually be a good thing and bring joy to life. In a safe quantity and at the right times, wine can feel

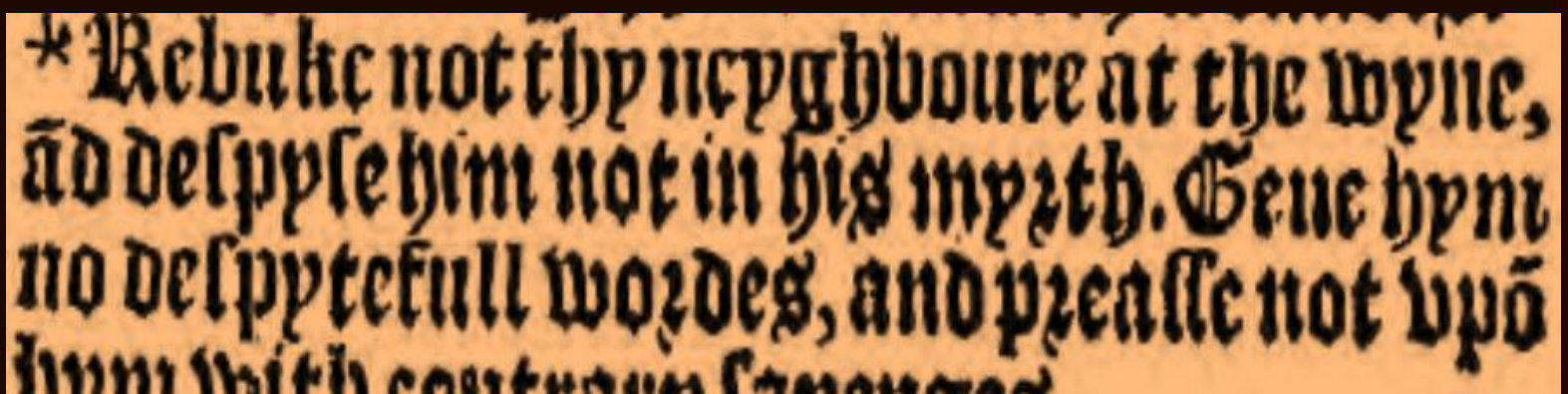
as life itself.
Excessive drinking,
however, badly
affects the mind
and creates
chaotic situations
such as
“brawling and
quarrelling”.
Alcohol usage also
intensifies anger

even to the point of rage and offensiveness. Further, it weakens and harms relationships.

Still, it's best not to neither rebuke a drunkard nor encourage any to

drink (according to the KJV).

The Great Bible makes no mention of not encouraging one to drink. Twice, though it advises to not degrade heavy drinkers:


*Rebuke not thy neyghboure at the wyne, ād despyse him not in his myrth. Geue hym no despytefull wordes, and preasse not vpō

Rebuke not thy neighbor at the wine, and despise him not in his mirth. Give him ***no despiteful words****, and press not upon him with*

contrary sayings.

Thoughts:
Some things are acceptable when simply done in moderation. The problem is that not everyone can practice self-

discipline well enough to moderate their own appetites. While there are some who have efficient management of their desires, there are others who have what

is termed “addictive personalities” and they must altogether abstain from certain things. There are also those who pretend to not drink alcohol

but secretly do
so while all
along berating
those who
openly drink or
who have
problems
“managing”
alcohol
consumption.

This scriptural passage seems to try to put it all in perspective by offering liberty with logic. It tells of both the pros as well as the cons of intoxicating beverages and

guides in understanding even greater principles with regard to symmetry which can be applied to “wine” as well as any indulgence.

Moderation is a

fundamental biblical principle for godly living.

Here are other verses to support healthy, balanced lifestyles:

1 Corinthians 6:12
Ephesians 5:18

Proverbs 20:1
Galatians 5:13
1 Peter 5:8
Philippians 4:5
1 Timothy 5:23
Romans 14:21

October 29

Titus 3:5

Regeneration: Washing, Renewing

Not by works of
righteousness
which we have
done, but
according to
his mercy
he saved us,
by the washing
of regeneration,
and renewing of
the Holy Ghost;

Regeneration: Washing, Renewing

Here is another scriptural passage, in addition to Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 8 and 9, which keeps us in proper perspective should we ever begin to think we did,

could have
done, or do
save ourselves.

It is only by God's
mercy that Believers
are saved.

It's a regeneration
process whereby we
are washed and

renewed by
the Holy Ghost.

October 30

John
10:11-13

Wolves and Hirelings

11 I am the good
shepherd: the good
shepherd giveth his
life for the sheep.
12 But he that is an
hireling, and not the
shepherd, whose
own the sheep
are not, seeth the
wolf coming, and
leaveth the sheep,

and fleeth: and
the wolf catcheth
them, and
scattereth the
sheep.
13 The hireling
fleeth, because
he is an hireling,
and careth
not for the
sheep.

Wolves and Hirelings

Hirelings leave sheep vulnerable to attacks and to being devoured by wolves.

The good shepherd does not do that. He gives his life for the sheep. It's all about care,

commitment, and
courage versus
the lack of such.

Both physically and
spiritually speaking,
wolves and hirelings
are dangerous if they
are put into
positions to take
care of flocks.

October 31

Psalms 46:10

Be Still

**Be still,
and know
that I am God:
I will be exalted
among the
heathen,
I will be exalted in
the earth.**

Be Still

Sometimes we may become so full of activity that we do not recognize just how unstill and less-than-tranquil we have actually become.

Whether it be

working to make a living or working to make a fortune, or caring for families, or enjoying leisure and entertainment, or even in religious activities, we can be very busy. In this verse, we

hear the words, “be still”. What does that mean?

Still is not necessarily being physically motionless or immobile. Stillness, here, is a mental state

of calm expectation. It is personal tranquility in the presence of God. This kind of *being still* is deep reverence which yields deep revelation.

When we become

the biblical kind of *still*, we will know the Almighty—really THE Almighty. That is when God will be exalted among heathens.

That is when God

will be exalted throughout earth. How so? Our stillness will be reflected in our lives such that our thinking will change from world-think to God-think. Our attitudes and actions will change

from self-focus to God-focus. That is a condition which can bring about the exaltation of God among rejecters and haters of Christ.

This is not any stillness of

vegetating in front of a T.V., tablet, phone, game console, or computer screen. Neither is it sitting with legs folded and arms out while chanting. This quietness happens when

True Followers of God stop, get off the world's busying and entertaining merry-go-round, and go into the quiet tent away from the fairgrounds that he and she may be enlightened by YHVH.

When those who profess to be children of the most High regularly become *THIS* kind of STILL, God is praised.

ONE A DAY
SCRIPTURE
1611KJV
PRAYER